of accounts and suggesting the necessary measures of reform. Mr. Gordon's recommendations made at the time have been generally adopted. The Darbar has now considered it desirable, after a lapse of seven years since the last inspection, to subject the whole working of the Account Department to a further examination and see whether there are any defects to be remedied. At the request of the Darbar, the Government of India have again kindly placed the services of Mr. Gordon at the disposal of the State for a period of six months for the purpose and Mr. Gordon has already arrived and entered on his duties.

## MAIN HEADS OF REVENUE.

9. **Agricultural conditions.**—I regret to note that the year was, on the whole, not favourable to agriculture. The total rainfall in 1092 was 13·7 inches less, and the distribution of rain more uneven, than in the previous year. The prices of food grains and the wages of labour were also higher than in 1091.

10. **Land Revenue.**—The net revenue demand fell from Rs. 36,54, 327 in 1091 to Rs. 35,70,933 in 1092. The fall is only apparent and is mainly due to the arrangement introduced in 1092 of including only that portion of the *tharavila* or sale price of Sirkar lands brought under registry, which is actually due for collection in a particular year, in the demand for that year, in lieu of the previous practice of including the whole *tharavila*, the bulk of which as a matter of fact falls due in subsequent years. The collections under current demand amounted to nearly 99 per cent as in 1091. The disposal of *puduval* and transfer of registry cases, as also of cases under the Land Conservancy and Land Acquisition Regulations, showed marked improvement. Satisfactory progress was made in the introduction of the registers and accounts prescribed by the Land Revenue Manual in all the Divisions. With a view to regulate and methodise the inspection of village offices by Tahsildars a set of rules has been introduced in the form of inspection notes to be prepared by them at each inspection. The Supernumerary Dewan Peishkar who was appointed for the settlement of the southern boundary of the Peruvanthanam Desom and the boundary between the Manimala and Kallupara *pakuthies*, has finished his special work. The collection of cardamom tax in four instalments and the payment of the *tharavila* on cardamom lands in nine instead of six instalments were sanctioned by way of relief to the cardamom ryots of the High Range. The rules regarding the grant of lands for coffee and tea cultivation were so amended as to make it incumbent on the grantees to take care of the royal trees on such lands until their final disposal by Government. Since the close of the year, the rules regarding the lease of trees on *poramboke* lands such as public roads, canals, irrigation tanks, and field bunds have been revised so as to safeguard the rights of the ryots who under the old system had planted such trees and enjoyed their usufruct.

11. **Land and depressed classes.**—For the past few years, the question of assigning lands to members of depressed classes for habitation and cultivation has been engaging the earnest attention of Government. Under a previous Government order, about 500 acres of land in the Vilappil *pakuthi*, Neyyattinkara taluk, had been assigned free of *tharavila*, in the names of Pulayas who are members of the Sadhu Jana Paripalana Sanghan. This order, which, for a variety of reasons, could not be enforced earlier, was directed to be brought into immediate effect in 1092. A further measure of wider scope and larger utility was also adopted during the year providing for the grant of unoccupied lands at the disposal of Government lying outside forest reserves to Pulayas and Parayas free of *tharavila*. The benefit of this concession is allowed to all Pulayas and Parayas who are subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja, irrespective of their religious persuasion, and the Division Peishkars and the Commissioner, Devicolam, have been specially instructed to pay prompt personal attention to the disposal of applications for lands from the members of depressed classes.

12. **Forest reservation.**—The total area of reserved forests at the end of 1092 was 2,344 square miles and 170 acres and of reserved lands 135 square miles and

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